

June 1952

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Number 362

LABOUR ORGANISER

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PRICE FIVEPENCE

Situations Vacant

WIMBLEDON C.L.P.—Applications are invited for the post of full-time Agent. Salary and conditions in accordance with the National Agreement. Application forms can be obtained from Mr. J. Cocks, 267, The Broadway, Wimbledon, London, S.W.19, to be returned by June 27, 1952.

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VOL. 31. NO. 362.

JUNE, 1952

PRICE FIVEPENCE

YOU have been WARNED

by FRANK GREEN

(AGENT, WESTBURY C.L.P.)

I WALKED into my office the other morning full of the joys of spring. I attacked my post with unusual energy. Then suddenly . . . the phone rang, and the message it brought blackened the day for me.

'The Labour Club has been burnt to the ground!' a voice said. My Spring changed to Winter. The Labour Club was the hub of the party's activity. What on earth were we to do? We would soon have the U.D.C. elections upon us. (What does an agent do with his time?)

I asked an official of the club if we were insured. He looked a little dubious, said he thought we were, and for about £10,000. Later the full story of that insurance was told. *I repeat it in the hope it will serve as a warning to others.*

In 1950 the Club, then carrying an insurance for £500, was successfully raided by a burglar to the tune of about £30. That good kind burglar. There are those in this constituency who wish him long life and happiness (both inside and out).

For after the inevitable special committee meeting it was discovered that we were not insured against burglary.

Drawing a veil over the proceedings it remains to add that we called in the insurance company and asked them to safeguard us for the future.

'You need £10,000 cover here,' their official announced. Oh, dear, ten thousand quid! What would the committee think? It would mean raising the premium from £2 to £40.

The Committee didn't feel at all happy. Was it worth it? They decided that it was. Within a year from the date of that decision the Labour Club was razed to the ground. Just two weeks' later the insurance company had agreed to pay.

It has been said by some that had it not been for our burglar we would now be down and out. But as it happens a new and much finer Club is already being purchased.

Take warning from our experience. You may not have any premeditating burglars in your constituency or flames ready to lick their way through your premises.

BUT THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT YOU HAVE! DON'T LEAVE THAT INSURANCE UNTIL IT IS TOO LATE. DO IT NOW.

AN AGENT'S TIME

Fourth and Final Round!

WHAT a tremendous pother my original article has let loose! It has been described as a 'travesty of truth', 'patronising', and showing a complete 'lack of knowledge'. The General Secretary of the Agents' Union has weightily pronounced that 'offence has been given'. For my part I would much rather spend my time giving offence to the Tories, but where something appears wrong I feel that we should be ready to examine it without getting over-excited. Let me give some explanations.

I wrote the paper for submission to our Regional Organiser, and because of this the style was stilted and didactic. Apparently the Editor of the *Labour Organiser* thought it should be published and I consented, on one condition, namely that my name should not appear.

I hate anonymity, a point that has been picked on by contributors, but I had to ask for it to make sure that some of the Agents I know well should not feel hurt.

THE SYSTEM

I am indeed sorry if, as Mr. Hilliard suggests, damage has been done. My complaint is not against Agents who are, in the main, keen and excellent workers, but against the whole system of which they, as much as anybody, are the victims.

The contributors' diversity of views show the wide differences which exist in both methods and conditions of employment. The criticisms have mostly been levelled at one paragraph. Other parts of the article have been scarcely considered. Some contributors have said that I know nothing about Agency work. I do not know the general condition throughout the country and do not think that Agents themselves know this.

Probably the persons best qualified to speak would be the Regional Organisers, and I am not entirely convinced that Regional Organisers are popular people with Agents. But I have some knowledge of conditions beyond my own locality, and I know at least seven Agents fairly well and work closely with one who, I hasten to say, is a good man trying hard and making progress.

I also know several Trade Union Organisers, in fact two of them are my best friends, and it was one of these who told

me that he was unable to understand how constituency Agents managed to dispose of their time, pointing out that their ground was so much smaller than that of an Area or a County.

One of the first things that an Agent should do is to organise his own affairs. Far too few do this.

Apparently some have not yet succeeded in arranging for voluntary typing assistance. This surprises me. The average constituency has about 60,000 electors and with the Party headquarters sited in a strong area there must be sufficient active workers to provide at least one typist, and probably more on a rota basis.

My constituency has one girl working on a paid part-time basis, with a volunteer newly-married woman in reserve. To pay an Agent's salary for typist's work is downright stupid, and the General Committees concerned should be persuaded to accept this view.

Mr. Browning comments that I am an employer and can direct employees to do their work adequately. I am also heavily engaged in Party work and would say that rarely do I find difficulty in getting splendid teamwork from voluntary workers. Perhaps the secret of getting voluntary workers to take orders is to make their work thrilling. This applies particularly at election times.

THE MOTTO

Judging from contributors' experiences far too many Agents are endeavouring to do the whole of the work of the constituency instead of finding active workers to help. The Agent's motto should be 'Farm it out!'

The root cause of our trouble is, as usual, money. The Tories appear to

An anonymous contributor—anonymous for reasons explained in this article—wrote in our March issue under the heading 'How does an Agent spend his time?'. Our April and May numbers contained the replies of many Agents including the General Secretary of their Union. This month the original writer gives his summing-up of the controversy.

average three paid workers in each constituency. Their budgets may average £4,000 per year, while we are working, probably, on an average of £1,000 per year. (Incidentally, how much do we spend locally? Here is an opportunity for research.)

THE CANCER

I argued in favour of increasing subscriptions and affiliation fees. The one thing I find completely wrong with our Movement is the reliance that has to be placed on gambling schemes which not only take up much of the Agent's time, but cut right across the whole ethical basis of Socialism. Until the Party tackles this cancer we shall always suffer some loss of self-respect, some loss of the sharpness of our attack on social evils.

Some Agents reach a state of mind where they worry more about the security of their job than the doing of their job. I know that this is true from personal experience, and it is quite wrong. This is implicit in what some contributors write. Mr. McGrandle says, '... the tragedy is that the average Agent's time is largely devoted to the practical task of raising £. s. d., and as a by-product of this effort his salary is sometimes met. Selfish perhaps, but rather necessary, or so the Agent's family thinks.'

The General Secretary says roundly that some 25 per cent of the Agent's time will be devoted exclusively to money-raising efforts as distinct from his Agency, and quotes the case of one Agent who runs a fish and chip shop for his Party in order to keep his job. This state of affairs is not good and ought not to continue!

Another big subject is the recruitment of Agents. I cannot be convinced that a General Committee is the right body for this task. We all know that bad choices are made, particularly in the less desirable constituencies where almost all candidates are new to the work. Their applications are examined by the Executive Committee, the short list is prepared, and on appearing before the General Committee they are asked a few disjointed questions, and

all too often the wrong man is appointed. It is to take care of such cases that I have suggested a first 'hurdle' to be surmounted, namely the enrolment on a panel of approved applicants.

I feel certain Agents will recognise that some slackness exists, and the potentialities for slackness are always there. The argument that an Agent has to work all day and should be excused evening meetings does not impress me for I work all day and have my full quota of evening meetings, and yet have to be as fresh as a daisy at nine o'clock or earlier on the following morning. The evening meeting goes with the job, just as in the case of the Trade Union Organiser.

Contributors have explained largely to their own satisfaction, and perhaps to that of readers, the different ways in which they approach their work. We all know that there is an ideal standard which is almost impossible of attainment. Some concentrate on one section of their work, others on other parts. There is a need for the levelling up of our standards. Who is going to do it? The average General Committee is, or should be, a body drawn from all parts of the community. The few who have business training are swamped by the many who say that our Party is one of ideals and that we should not go closely into mean and pettifogging detail. But details are things that matter.

THE OBJECT

I suggested that control should be dealt with by an inspectorial system from Head Office in regard to Parties accepting an organisation grant from the National Executive Committee. Control is not always harmful. It can be helpful. Our common object is the improvement of the service, and regional or county control of administrative efficiency would not mean the employment of specially engaged sadists and bullies, but would give an additional grade for the efficient Agent.

I would be the first to agree that the Agent follows a vocation. He has to be willing to make great sacrifices before he

(Continued on page 107)

SARA BARKER, Asst. National Agent,

talks about a

MODEL LABOUR GROUP

VICTORY brings responsibility, and responsibility calls for efficiency.

The magnificent results of the Local Government elections have placed more councils under Labour control. Where in opposition, Labour's strength has been greatly increased. In many cases, for the first time, Labour representation has grown sufficiently to make the formation of a 'Labour Group' imperative.

Why a 'Labour Group'

Just as the Annual Conference of the Labour Party is responsible for the formulation of national policy, so is the city, constituency, or local Labour Party responsible for the formulation of Local Government electoral policy.

The Parliamentary Labour Party is the instrument through which the Labour Party works to achieve the aims of its national policy. The Labour Groups on local authorities are the instruments used to express and achieve Labour's policy on Local Government issues.

Labour Councillors having been elected to carry out a declared policy should work as a team, and not as individuals.

The collective mind of the Group should make itself felt in committee and in the council chamber.

This requires effective group machinery which gives adequate scope for discussion, decision and reasonable discipline.

Standing Orders

A Group requires Standing Orders. The National Executive has adopted Model Standing Orders for Labour Groups which were approved by annual conference.

Every Labour Group should operate in accordance with the Model Standing Orders, for without effective co-operation

and discipline, far reaching results in the field of Local Government are impossible.

The Model Standing Orders make provision for regular meetings of the Group, in order that every Labour councillor shall have a voice in moulding policy, and determining action.

It would be a poor Group if there were no differences of opinion. It would be a dull Group if these differences were not argued vigorously. It would be a failure of a Group if after discussion and decision, individual members of the Group failed to accept majority decisions.

Differences should be settled within the Group and not carried to the floor of the council chamber or into the public Press.

A Labour Group which commands loyalty to decisions is on the way to administrative and electoral success. Occasions may arise where the individual point of view can be expressed freely.

If a matter arises which is not part of Party policy, the Group may decide on a free vote.

In that event the Whips would be taken off, and individual members of the Group would be allowed to vote according to their own wishes.

There are limits to the use of the free vote. Even matters which superficially do not appear to affect Party policy may have policy implications.

A decision on these matters should be left to the good sense of the Group.

Provision must always be made for abstention when matters of conscience arise.

Amendments to Model Standing Orders

In many instances it may be necessary to amend the Model Standing Orders. Such amendments are permissible providing



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that they do not infringe on fundamental principles. These modifications have to be submitted to the National Executive Committee for approval, and a copy of Standing Orders adopted by every Labour Group should be sent to Head Office for record purposes.

The Labour Group and the Local Party

From time to time conflict has arisen concerning the relationship of the Labour Group and the local Party.

That relationship should be clear to the individual who understands and appreciates the fundamental principles underlying the democratic basis of the British Constitution.

Elected representatives to local authorities, while responsible to the Labour Party on policy matters, are definitely responsible to all the people they represent for the control of the affairs of a local authority.

Therefore on matters of administration Labour councillors must be responsible public representatives. The Labour Group is the authoritative body, and the appropriate Local Party must entrust the Group to carry out declared policy on the Council.

A wise Labour Group will consider views the Local Party may express, and provision is made in the model rules for contact, by communication to the Group Secretary, or through Party representatives at Group meetings.

Provisions in the Model Standing Orders

The Model Standing Orders make provision for ordinary meetings of the Labour Group to be held between the publication of the Council agenda, and the Council meeting, and an Annual Meeting when Group officers shall be elected.

In addition to declaring the Party's responsibility for determining policy, and the Group's responsibility for taking decisions on matters arising before the Council, provision is made for the Group to decide on the selection of nominees for Mayoral, Aldermanic, and other Council offices. The Party may submit names for consideration. The selection rests with the Labour Group.

An important clause lays down the individual rights and responsibilities of each member of the Group. A further clause relates to the penalty for Breach of Standing Orders, and a final clause makes provision for the appointment of a Group representatives to the appropriate Labour Party for the purpose of report.

The Rights of Public Representatives

Often misunderstanding arises concerning the rights of Public Representatives within the Party.

It should be clearly understood that Public Representatives are in precisely the same position as any other individual member.

Their membership rights are in the Ward where they reside or are registered as Parliamentary or Local Government electors. Their membership subscription should be paid into that source. Voting and delegation rights are also vested in that Ward.

The only additional constitutional right which a Public Representative has, is the privilege and duty of attending the Ward he represents, in a **purely advisory capacity.**

Like the whole of the Constitution, the Model Standing Orders for Labour Groups, aim and secure, equality of responsibility and privilege for the individual, and democratic function of the machine.

If we are to derive the maximum benefit from our greatly increased strength in the field of Local Government, then every Group must function effectively.

(from page 105)

will accept what is very often a thankless task at a rate of pay which is lower than that for comparable jobs in the Trade Union world and in industry. But everyone should realise that Agency is also a profession which should have certain standards of efficiency to achieve and maintain. The new grading scheme just announced by the National Agent will go a long way to meet my original criticisms. Until now Agents have been, with very few exceptions, in a dead-end career, but the most satisfactory system would be an apprenticeship scheme leading on to full agency through several different grades and thence right to the top.

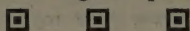
I am sincerely sorry if my article caused pain to anyone. I did not intend it to do so. I wrote it solely with the object of promoting the welfare of the Party. I want to see the Agent doing all that Mr. Hilliard has outlined. I want to see him given all the tools necessary for the job. Above all I want to see all Agents efficient and happy and proud of their work, with an assured future ahead of them, so that the whole of our Party will benefit from hard work well done under good conditions.

D. F. Alger, Propaganda Officer at Head Office, has some advice for local parties about to invite speakers into their areas. In effect, he says

GIVE THE SPEAKER A CHANCE!

IT is desirable to remind all who are responsible for the organisation of public meetings, conferences, debates, etc., of certain vital points in the matter of the treatment of speakers. It is particularly desirable to do this now that, according to report, more meetings than usual are being arranged in many parts of the country.

We all agree that the aim should be to make every meeting successful. Speakers are largely wasted as well as exasperated if they are not accorded the courtesy of clear and convenient arrangements or if, because of bad or insufficient advertisement, their meetings are poorly attended.



It should always be remembered that our speakers, whether ex-Ministers, Members of Parliament, or members of Constituency or Local Labour Parties, give their services at meetings free, claiming only the expenses they have inevitably incurred. It is true that they take pleasure in addressing meetings; but it is no less true that often they sacrifice valuable time which they would be happy to devote to other activities or even occasionally to the rest which is a real need in the midst of a busy life.

For most speakers, addressing a meeting is one of the many services they voluntarily perform for the benefit of our Party and the electors.

Thus we ought to avoid treating our speakers rough. Let me mention a few cases:

(1) A Member of Parliament made a journey of 600 miles (300 miles each way) to address a small meeting which he had been informed was important. The meeting was half-an-hour late in starting. Then the Chairman spoke for half-an-hour and another member of the Local Party concerned for three-quarters-of-an-hour. In

the result, the Member of Parliament, who had to catch a train to take another engagement next day, had exactly 15 minutes in which to make his speech and answer questions.

Obvious comment: A waste of time and money.

(2) Another Member of Parliament (who fortunately did not make a long journey), having been told that a certain meeting was important, found on arrival that there were exactly a dozen people in the audience and two other Members of Parliament besides himself on the platform to speak.

Obvious comment: A waste of time and discourteous to the speakers.

(3) Another speaker, due to make a long journey to address a meeting, found on the day before that nobody had sent him details of the time and place of the meeting. He had, therefore, to spend much time in telephoning to discover where and when he was expected to appear.

Obvious comment: A grave risk taken that the speaker would not reach the meeting.

(4) Another speaker, having by special request made a considerable journey to address a meeting, found it had been cancelled.

Obvious comment: Incredible but true.



(5) Another speaker, having at considerable inconvenience to himself travelled to address a meeting alleged to be of the utmost importance, was informed on arrival that it had been decided not to hold the meeting but to ask him to speak for a few minutes at a dance.

Obvious comment: At least the speaker should have been notified and saved the trouble of preparing a long speech.

It would be wrong to exaggerate the

casualness with which speakers are sometimes treated. Bad treatment of speakers, bad advertisement, and bad arrangement of meetings are not deliberate; they are simply due to lack of thought.

Clearly, there is no purpose in holding a meeting unless there is a resolve to take the necessary steps to ensure, as far as humanly possible, its success. Accidents due to the weather and other unforeseeable circumstances will, of course, sometimes happen.



To ensure the success of a meeting and the reasonable comfort of the speakers and others concerned, the following elementary points should be observed.

Advertisement should be extensive. Posters, leaflets and Press notices should be out in good time. All Party members and members of affiliated organisations should be notified.

Planning of the meeting should include the selection of an efficient chairman; the provision of adequate time for the speaker to speak and to answer questions.

Arrangements for the speaker should include notifying him well in advance of the exact date, time, place, and nature of the meeting; informing him wherever necessary of the best means of reaching the meeting; providing some refreshment—a light or full meal, according to circumstances; fixing proper hospitality for the night where this is required; meeting the speaker's expenses immediately the meeting is over. Indeed, whatever information and assistance will enable the speaker to play his part effectively should be given.

I would add that we are happy to know that so many thousands of meetings are satisfactorily run. It is enormously to the credit of the Agents, Secretaries, and other officers responsible whose efforts enable our Party to influence the public so strongly.

The casualness I have mentioned can and should be avoided. Treating our speakers rough never pays. Let us, if only because of the comradeship which unites us, take the smooth way.

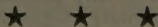
MR. GEORGE H. WILLIAMS, 40-year-old agent for the Brierley Hill C.L.P., has been appointed by the National Executive Committee to the post of Assistant Regional Organiser for the West Midlands Region.

Four Ruskin Scholarships

THE ROBERT ADDY HOPKINSON EDUCATIONAL TRUST (administered by Arthur Greenwood, Emanuel Shinwell, Philip Noel-Baker and Morgan Phillips) offers four scholarships, open to men and women between the ages of 20 and 35, tenable at Ruskin College, Oxford, for the year beginning in October, 1952.



SCHOLARSHIPS will be awarded for one year in the first instance, but holders will be able to apply for second-year Scholarships awarded on the results of their first year's work. Each Scholarship will cover full tuition, board and accommodation at the College for the year October, 1952, to June, 1953, plus £75 personal expenses, and national insurance contributions during term. The Trust will consider awarding dependants' allowances in case of need.



SUBJECTS studied at the College include Economic Theory and Organisation, Political Theory and Institutions, Modern British History, Industrial Relations, International Relations, and a foreign language (French, German or Russian). A limited number of students follow courses in English Literature, History and a foreign language.



INTENDING applicants should write to the Secretary, Ruskin College, Oxford, for full particulars and an application form, enclosing a stamped addressed foolscap envelope for reply.



THE closing date for final applications (with an essay) is 24th JUNE, 1952. A short list of candidates will be interviewed in London and Scholarships awarded.

TACKLE WA

Where they exist in y

THE recent election campaigns have brought home with added force the need for adequate electoral areas within the local authority. There are still boroughs and districts with no Wards at all and many others where existing Wards bear no relation to present-day electorates.

Now is the time to consider making representations to the local authority where such anomalies need to be remedied. The pre-election period was not at all satisfactory for such a purpose as the motives, however good, were likely to be received in the light of political expediency whereas, of course, they must be considered in the light of what is good and necessary for democratic government. It is on this basis and this basis alone that proposals should be framed and presented.

If the approach is made on this principle the local authority is far more likely to give attention to the matter and the public give its support if called upon to do so. Careful thought must, therefore, be given to any proposals presented and the preliminary stages are important. It must also be realised that changes of this nature can only come about as a result of action by and through the local authority.



The procedure is laid down in the Local Government Act, 1933, and, as this varies according to the local authority in question, it will be necessary to quote the respective Sections of the Act in order to make this article comprehensive. Also, to ensure this article is of a reasonable length, only the pertinent parts of the respective Sections will be quoted. Parties intending to take action should acquaint themselves fully with the Section in question as the procedure to be followed, once the local authority agrees to act, is also outlined. The purpose of this article is to deal with the position up to that stage.

It should be possible to obtain either Jennings on *The Law Relating to Local*

Authorities or *Arnold's Law of Municipal Corporations* from the Public Library. These books contain not only the Local Government Act, 1933, but a wealth of other information as well. Failing this, we have duplicated the various Sections and a copy of the appropriate Section will be forwarded on application to the National Agent's Department.

● **LEN SIMS, National Agent**
draws attention to the fact that it is 'necessary for d

Reference to the various Sections throughout this article refer to the Local Government Act, 1933, and must not be confused with the Representation of the People Act, 1949.

County Councils

In the case of county councils, Section 10 ensures that every county shall be divided into electoral divisions and that there shall be a separate election for each division.

Section 11 (1) states:

'A county council may at any time, either on the receipt of proposals from the council of a county district or without such proposals, make a representation to the Secretary of State for the alteration of the boundaries of any electoral division of the county, or of the number of county councillors and the number of electoral divisions of the county.'

Section 11 (2) enables a county district

ANOMALIES

local government area

council, having made proposals and presented them to the county council, and feeling aggrieved by the refusal or neglect of the county council, to make representations to the Secretary of State. They may themselves make such representation to him on all or any of the matters referred to in their proposals.

Urban Districts

In the case of urban districts, Section 37 (1) applies as follows:

'Where a county council consider, either on receipt of proposals from the council of the urban district or without such

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proposals, that a *prima facie* case exists as respects any urban district in the county for—

- (a) the division of the district into wards; or
 - (b) an alteration of the number and of the boundaries of wards; or
 - (c) an alteration of the boundaries of wards; or
 - (d) an alteration of the number of councillors; or
 - (e) an alteration of the apportionment of the councillors among the wards;
- the county council may cause a local enquiry to be held.'

This means that if the county council is satisfied that a *prima facie* case exists, they can move in the matter. This should always be borne in mind. It is wise, and of course desirable, to make the initial approach through the district council and to obtain, if possible, their goodwill.

Rural Districts

Again there is a slight variation. Section 38 (1) lays down that rural district councillors shall be elected for the several areas into which the district is divided for the purpose of their election. This shall be either parishes or combinations of parishes.

Section 38 (2) states:

'A county council may by order fix or alter the number of rural district councillors to be elected for the several rural parishes within the county, and for those purposes may—

- (a) divide a parish into wards and determine the number of councillors to be elected for each ward, and alter the boundaries of the wards, or
- (b) combine a parish with any adjoining parish or parishes within the same rural district.'



There is a provision whereby a parish shall not be combined with another parish having a larger population if the population of the first parish exceeds 300, and the net annual value of the land in that parish, as at preceding 31st March, exceeds the average net annual value of the land in the parishes of the district at that date.

Parishes

In the case of parish councils there is provision whereby local electors can take a hand. Section 52 (1) states:

'If a county council, on receipt of proposals made by the parish council of, or by not less than one-tenth of the local government electors for, a parish, are satisfied—

- (a) that the area or population of the parish is so large, or different parts of the population are so situate, as to make a single election of parish councillors impracticable or inconvenient, or
- (b) that it is desirable for any reason that certain parts of the parish

should be separately represented on the parish council, the county council may by order divide the parish for the purpose of the election of parish councillors into wards, to be called parish wards, and fix the boundaries of, and the number of parish councillors to be elected for, each parish ward.'

Boroughs

The procedure in respect of the boroughs varies from that of the others inasmuch that there is no second avenue of approach.

Section 25 (1) states:

'The council of a borough may, upon a resolution passed by a majority of the whole number of the members of the council, present Her Majesty a petition praying for any one or more of the following things—

- (a) the division of the borough into wards;
- (b) an alteration of the number and of the boundaries of the wards;
- (c) an alteration of the boundaries of the wards;
- (d) an alteration of the number of councillors of the borough;
- (e) the holding of a fresh election of councillors or of aldermen and councillors following upon any such division or alteration.'

The First Steps

When considering the question of division or redistribution of wards, a small committee should be established and the whole area brought under review. Should there be local Labour councillors it would be desirable to include one or more, together with a Labour county councillor if thought necessary.

The following points provide a basis upon which the committee should concentrate:

1. The existing county electoral divisions.
2. The geographical nature of the area.
3. Community interests.
4. Future development — housing estates, etc.

5. Adequate polling facilities within the proposed areas.
6. Reasonably balanced electorates.
7. Its relationship with other local authorities.
8. That party-political bias is kept out.

The provisional plan, having been drafted, should be placed before the Party for approval. Where we have a Labour Group they, too, should participate. A map of the area, suitably coloured to indicate the proposed wards, would be of considerable value.

Once the proposals have been agreed, they should be placed before the local authority, either through the Labour Group where we have representation or by letter to the Clerk of the council. A request that a deputation be received might be worthy of consideration. By this means additional publicity is obtained which might prove of value in creating public interest. It also affords an opportunity to present the proposals fully.

In the case of borough councils that is the limit one can go as far as legislation is concerned. In the case of rural and urban council areas the case can be presented to the county council in the event of it being turned down locally. Should this be so, the co-operation of the Federation and County Council Labour Group is essential.

In the event of these efforts failing, it would be necessary to consider other means of interesting and stimulating public interest in the matter. If sufficient support appeared to be forthcoming, public meetings could be organised and a Petition drafted, or a Press conference, at which the proposals could be outlined, might be thought worth while. Local conditions would have to decide the best line of approach.

The purpose of getting such action under way at the present time has many advantages. It would come at a time when interest in local affairs is still high; when no political advantage could be inferred; and, most important of all, the proposals, if accepted, could be dealt with before the new Registers are compiled.

Y fall behind in tackling the 'Y' voters on your electoral register? A reprint of the 'Invitation to a Party' leaflet—specially designed for this task—is now available, price 30s. per 1,000 (carriage paid). Orders to: Labour Publications, Transport House, Smith Square, London, S.W.1.

THIS ORIGINALITY WAS REWARDED

THE POPULACE of Blaydon must have indeed rubbed their eyes at the sight of a poster which recently appeared within their boundaries. They must have wondered for a moment if they had been transported back a generation or so. For there, in windows and public and other divers places, was a poster, displayed as was the wont in those days, declaring that certain persons were wanted. Specified crimes were listed and a just reward offered.

No! The poster had nothing to do with

the Blaydon Races and the rogues that might forgather there. No! It did not call for the apprehension of thugs and vagabonds. Close scrutiny revealed that the miscreants were of more recent vintage—to wit the Tory Government and those who supported its policy.

Let us not spoil the purport or spirit of the poster, nor the true intent of its publisher by undue or unnecessary explanation. Let this message to the electors within the Blaydon Urban District speak for itself.

WANTED

4,000 Men and Women of good intent and residing in the Blaydon Ward of the Blaydon Urban District, who are discontented with the present Tory Government, who have been found guilty by the people of False Pretences, Misrepresentation, Gaining Power by Trickery, Dishonesty, Robbing the Poor to make the Rich Richer, Failing to keep their Promises, Raising Food Prices deliberately and boasting about it. Raising House Rents by altering the Bank Rate which has put £26 million into the pockets of the Bankers. Reducing the size of houses and pretending they were better because they were worse. These and other crimes having been laid at their door, the aforementioned Men and Women are wanted on Tuesday, May 6th, to vote Labour in order to register their protest.

REWARD

All such voters will be rewarded by the feeling of intense satisfaction which they will enjoy in removing from public life the declared enemies of the people.

Printed by R. Beveridge & Co. Tyne St., Blaydon and published by J. Stephenson, Winlaton

It may well be asked if the local populace took heed of the poster. Did they, by means of exercising their franchise, turn out the Tories? Let the letter from Mr. Stephenson, who acted as Labour's election Agent, conclude:

"... the result was two Labour Gains which the R. & R. (Rent & Ratepayers) had held for a lifetime... we are now 100% Labour for the first time." Congratulations, Blaydon, on an interesting poster and a most successful contest.

LABOUR REMOVALS

by R. W. G. MACKAY

THERE are three kinds of Labour removals. Two of these are electors who have moved away from their qualifying address either to another street in the same Polling District, or to another Polling District in the Constituency. For record purposes these should be noted as R.1's and R.2's respectively. I would here just remind you that persons who have moved out of the Constituency altogether are treated as postal voters, and not for our purpose as removals at all.

The third class of removals, to be called R.3's, are people who have moved into the Polling District from elsewhere. I would emphasise that in this article I am referring only to people who have moved, and who are known, or believed, to be Labour supporters. Let us examine each category in turn.

R.1's

These people will still vote at the same Polling Station as they have simply moved from one street in the Polling District to another street in the same Polling District, which means of course that their qualifying address and actual residential address are different. The Area Manager should do three things:

- (a) See that the elector is recorded on a Removal Labour Card (a white card with spaces for the necessary particulars—qualifying address, new address, Polling Station, and removal classification (i.e. "R.1"), etc.
- (b) Insert a new Labour Removal card in the street to which the voter has moved, as the first card will be in the street of his qualifying address. This should be marked "duplicate".
- (c) Insert a second "duplicate" card in the special R.1 folder at the back of the card index box. This folder is of value as it provides a quick means of checking the number of electors who have moved from their qualifying address to another address in the same Polling District.

ADVERTISER'S ANNOUNCEMENT

Labour Party Agent (late 30's) seeks companion(s) (male) three weeks' walking holiday abroad August; kindred spirits but politics barred; tour suggestions welcome.—Box 1, 'Organiser' office.

R.2's

These are people who have moved from one Polling District to another Polling District in the constituency, and they vote, of course, at the Polling Station which serves their qualifying address, and not their present address.

Procedure with regard to them is as follows:

- (a) See that they are written up on a Labour Removal card, and that the proper classification (R.2) is inserted in the space provided.
- (b) A duplicate card should be written out and sent to the Sub-Agent for the polling District to which they have moved.
- (c) A second duplicate card should be made out and put into the R.2 folder at the back of the card index box.

R.2's on Polling Day

It is not enough, of course, merely to record that a Labour supporter has moved to another Polling District in the constituency. They must be canvassed in order to discover two things—do they require a car on Polling Day, or will they get to the Poll on their own. The simplest method of dealing with this, and one which we found most helpful during the last election campaign in Reading North, is to send to the person who has moved a letter enclosing a letter-card which he can complete giving the required information, and return to the Sub-Agent, or Area Manager, by post. This additional data should then be added to the appropriate card in the street folder and in the R.2 folder.

If this is done, it makes the organisation of removals on Polling Day comparatively easy. The people who need a car will be picked up by car, and those who do not need a car will be knocked up by a lad on a motorbike so as to make certain they do vote. Neither of these things can be done unless the information is available.

R.3's

These are persons who have moved into the Polling District either from another Polling District in the constituency, or from a different constituency.

They should be put on to a Labour

Removal card, and marked "R.3". Under no circumstances will they be counted in as part of the people in the street as they are not qualified to vote in the Polling District to which they have moved. However, we need information about them for a number of reasons, particularly if they are Labour supporters, and they should be dealt with in the following way:

- (a) All available information should be put on the removal card.
- (b) Where they have come from another Polling District in the same constituency a duplicate card should be made out and sent to the sub-Agent for that District.
- (c) In all cases a duplicate card should be made out and put in the R.3 folder at the back of the card index box.

It will, of course, be realised, that the R.3's of one Polling District become the R.2's of other Polling Districts. We therefore want to keep all the details of them in order to assist the Sub-Agents of other Polling Districts. At the same time we need the information about them because when the next new Register comes out it will be unnecessary to canvass them again, and they can be put on to an ordinary Labour card. It is essential to smooth and efficient organisation that we should have complete records of all the people in the various streets, even if they are not on the present Register—so long as they are not confused with the ordinary Labour voters of the area. That is why they are put on a removal card and classified as R.3.

Organisation is obviously of supreme importance in the so-called marginal constituencies, and I feel sure that if some such system as I have been describing in these four short articles can be built up there between now and the next election, whenever that may be, we should be able to get in every possible Labour vote and thus ensure the return of the Socialist candidate for these vital seats.

FRIENDLY WELCOME

Make that new member an informed member! Give him a copy of 'About the Labour Party'—the four-page leaflet hundreds of parties are already distributing with success. Bulk rates: 100—5s. 6d., 1,000—50s. Obtainable from Labour Publications at Transport House.

Candidates and Agents

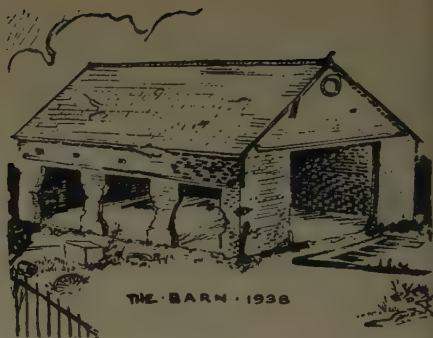
THE following have been endorsed as Prospective Parliamentary Candidates at recent meetings of the National Executive Committee:

Berkshire :	
Reading North ..	R. W. G. Mackay
Cheshire :	
Chester	J. G. Hughes
Altrincham & Sale ..	J. B. O'Hara
Cornwall :	
Truro	J. N. Newby
Devon :	
Plymouth, Sutton ..	Mrs. Middleton
Dorset :	
North Dorset	H. J. Dutfeld
Essex :	
Billericay	B. R. Clapham
Ilford North	T. W. Richardson
Gloucestershire :	
Bristol N.W.	T. C. Boyd
Hampshire :	
Basingstoke	A. E. Carr
Winchester	E. C. Neate
Portsmouth West ..	Mrs. A. L. Birk
Hertfordshire :	
St. Albans	J. McKnight
Kent :	
Dover	W. J. Owen
Orpington	R. D. Vaughan-Williams
Lancashire :	
Bolton East	A. Booth
Liverpool, Toxteth ..	W. E. Lawn
„ West Derby	C. R. Fenton
Manchester	
Blackley	J. Diamond
Rochdale	J. Hale
Lincolnshire :	
Gainsborough	G. R. S. Hawkins
Middlesex :	
Spelthorne	A. E. Hunter
Wembley North ..	J. F. Fulton
Norfolk :	
King's Lynn	H. Lawson
Northants :	
Peterborough	A. E. V. A. Farrer
Northumberland :	
Hexham	T. L. MacDonald
Oxfordshire :	
Oxford	G. H. Elvin
Shropshire :	
Ludlow	R. J. Barker

(Continued on page 118)

SUCCESS!

after 32 years
of effort
and enthusiasm



IT was resolved that this Ward Party launch a Building Fund, and elects Tom Clarke and Arthur Eels as Trustees.' There is nothing unusual about such a resolution, most Parties have at some time or other passed similar resolutions, and then for years afterwards have watched the proceeds of these funds being used to assist the financing of Labour election campaigns, until eventually their hopes of acquiring a hall recede into the background.

Ponders End Ward of Enfield Labour Party launched their fund in 1920. They suffered all the usual setbacks but continued indefatigably with the task they had set themselves, determined to succeed. The early records show entries on the income side of the balance sheet of profits from the sale of boot laces. Later much bigger ventures were started. The League of Youth organised a weekly dance in the local school hall, admission threepence, which usually showed a profit of twenty to thirty shillings a week.

Fruit Store

In 1938 the Trustees reported that a balance of £77 had accumulated. About the same time Tom Clarke (a trustee) advised the members that he could purchase a plot of land and an old brick building situated in the centre of a new housing estate at Ponders End for £150. This turned out to be a dilapidated old barn used for many years as a store on the fruit farm which had been developed for housing purposes. Despite a good deal of opposition by the pessimists (and you will probably agree that they were justified after studying the sketch of the building reproduced here) it was agreed to purchase the property. The Building Fund contributed £75, the League of Youth £50, and the balance was loaned, interest free, by one of the stalwarts of the Ward Party. The conveyancing and

legal work was carried out by a firm of friendly solicitors without charge.

Some old iron railings were produced and the property was fenced in. The era of a property-owning democracy had begun!

The next job was to dig up the old brick floor and brick up the holes in the walls. This was carried out by League of Youth members and men and women of the Party in the evenings. It was a long and tiresome job with little evidence of progress. More than 5,000 old bricks were obtained, the source is doubtful, and the work of cleaning them was mainly carried out by the women and girls of the League, determined to make their contribution to the provision of a hall of our own.

Next, 30,000 wood blocks were secured. They had previously formed the floor of a school hall and had been set in tar but this did not deter the spirit of the boys and girls who set about the job of chipping off the tar and cleaning the blocks in preparation for their being laid in the Barn.

Sad Blow

Unfortunately at this stage the war came and claimed most of the young men who were involved in the rebuilding of the premises. This was a sad blow. Progress had reached the stage where the building could be locked up and used to store materials which would be required

eventually in the completion of the work.

Up to this time there had always been a pool of unemployed members who gave their time to doing specialised jobs such as re-tiling the roof and hanging doors, etc., but now these began to be fully occupied in war work and eventually activities on the Barn came to a complete standstill.

When work began again the job of cleaning the wood blocks for the floor alone occupied a period of five years, a few members spending two evenings a week on this job.

The stage was constructed with Morrison shelters and is 30 feet long by 15 feet deep. Dressing rooms and lavatory accommodation were built on either side.

Unfortunately our hopes of completing the building entirely by voluntary labour and opening the hall free of debt became an impossibility, and eventually the trustees agreed to arrange a mortgage with the Co-operative for £1,000. This was not difficult, because the Barn has now become a valuable property.

Heating

Contractors were then called in and a heating system was installed. We decided on a new type of gas heater suspended from the girders of the roof. Another contractor laid the wood blocks, some second-hand curtains were obtained from a local Music Hall and were fitted by our voluntary workers. Some nesting chairs and a couple of dozen whist tables were provided. A canteen was equipped.

The hall, which is some 60 feet square, was officially opened by our Member of Parliament on March 1st, 1952. Many of the old members were present and it was certainly a day for rejoicing.

Already two important Labour Party conferences have been held in the hall, the Enfield Peoples Theatre group have produced one play with more to come, and generally the "Barn", as it will familiarly be known, is providing a long-felt need for cultural and educational activity in the district.

THE READER WRITES

COUNTING AGENTS

ELECTORS waiting outside the Chickerell County School, near Weymouth, Dorset, heard the Returning Officer announce that Mr. C. Ludlow, the Independent candidate, had been elected by 236 votes to 203.

The successful candidate thanked those who had voted for him (although all present were strong Labour supporters) and congratulated his Labour opponent on his clean fight, etc. The Labour candidate and his counting agents were not there, however, and thinking that our candidate had been taken ill I went into the counting room only to be greeted with cries of 'I'm going to ask for a recount'.

They realised that the counters had made a mistake, putting 20 of our votes on the wrong pile. Apparently, the Returning Officer had gone out and declared the result before the Labour candidate had had time to challenge him, neither did he ask whether he was satisfied with the result. On being told of these developments the Returning Officer immediately ordered a recount, after which he went and announced that Mr. A. Welstead (Labour) had been elected by 223 votes to 216.

Our First Victory

There was prolonged cheering from Labour supporters for this was their first local Labour victory ever, but it would not have been achieved and there would not have been any rejoicing had it not have been for the sharp eyes of the Secretary who spotted the mistake.

I trust all those who undertake the duties of counting agents realise that they have an important responsibility to attend to, much more important than being the first to know the result. Their observation can make quite a difference as to whether a candidate is successful or not.

The Chickerell and Charlestown Labour Party which comprises two small villages was formed only about four months ago and already has a Rural District Councillor, three Parish Councillors and a membership of approximately 60. It is situated in the heart of the 'blue' country'.

K. J. PRANKERD,
Secretary,
Weymouth L.O.Y.

CANDIDATES AND AGENTS

(continued from page 115)

Suffolk :

Eye E. Granville

Sussex :

Brighton

" Kemptown L. C. Cohen

" Pavilion Miss E. R. Littlejohn

Warwickshire :

Warwick &

Leamington W. Wilson

Birmingham

King's Norton D. H. Howell

Wiltshire :

Chippenham D. R. Evans

Salisbury R. R. Thomas

Worcestershire :

Bromsgrove D. P. Chesworth

Kidderminster I. A. Williams

Yorkshire :

Middlesbro' West D. Dunwoodie

Ripon S. J. Andrews

Shipley T. J. Roberts

Doncaster R. J. Gunter

York E. Ashley Bramall

Montgomeryshire :

Montgomery D. C. Jones

Fifeshire :

East Fife J. McGowan

Lanarkshire :

Lanark W. L. Taylor

Renfrewshire :

West Renfrewshire M. A. Fairnie

* * *

THE National Executive Committee has given approval to the following Agency appointments :

R. BELBEN to Ince. Reg. Belben has been in the Agency Service for the past 14 years and has held appointments at Yardley, Halifax, Clitheroe, Banbury and Rossendale. He has been in control of no fewer than 53 elections, including every General Election since 1929. His new appointment dates from July 1st.

G. C. STUBBERT to Taunton. As Secretary/Agent to the Croydon Party for the past seven years, George Stubbart has been responsible for all three constituencies within the Borough. At successive General Elections he has acted as Agent for one or other of the constituencies while giving a general oversight to the other two. He takes over at Taunton on June 1st.

A. A. SWEETLAND to Sutton. For the past three years Alf Sweetland has been Assistant Organiser to the Birmingham (Borough) Party, giving general oversight to its 13 constituencies. In 1951 he acted as General Election Agent at Yardley. His duties with the Sutton Party commenced on May 26th.

W. E. TOLTON to St. Albans. At present Secretary/Agent to the Lowestoft constituency, Will Tolton takes up his new appointment on July 1st. During his 3½ years at Lowestoft he acted as Agent at the 1950 and 1951 General Election and at County, Borough, and R.D.C. elections since 1949. Prior to his appointment at Lowestoft he was a student at Ruskin College for two years.

UPTON PROVIDES A POINTER

SHOULD any member of the Labour Party be wandering about the Lorna Doone country he (or she) might find the little hamlet of Upton. I say "might" (writes Harold Heslop) for it is very difficult to find. You have to be lucky, distinctly lucky, to find Upton.

Now, strange as it may seem, there is a flourishing local Labour Party in Upton. It is an outpost of the Taunton Constituency Labour Party. And what an outpost! Read this letter written by the secretary to the "divisional party" for guidance:

"Our local party has distributed twenty-four copies of *Problems of Foreign Policy*, the recently published discussion pamphlet, and many of our members

seem interested in the problems set out in it. If you are holding any group discussions in our area perhaps you will let me know and I may then be able to arrange for those interested to attend.

"We have no village hall or meeting place of any description in Upton, but Lowtrow Cottage has a large room which is always available.

"Most of our members work as long as daylight lasts, in the open air, but we do try to interest them as much as possible in events in the world outside our parish.—Yours sincerely,

Nora Weall, Secretary."

Just that! The countryside is coming our way. Upton is a pointer.

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DRIVE**

Grand
DANCE

Grand
**GARDEN
PARTY**

GRAND
BAZAAR

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